IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

EUNICE LOCKETT,)
Plaintiff,) FILED STAMP: JULY 30, 2008
) 08CV4329
VS.	JUDGE CASTILLO
) MAG. JUDGE COLE
CERTEGY CHECK SERVICES, INC.,) J. N.
)
Defendant.	

COMPLAINT

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff brings this action against Certegy Check Services, Inc. to secure redress for improper information on her credit report, in violation of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1337 and 15 U.S.C. §1681p. Venue in this District is proper because defendant does business in this District.

PARTIES

- 3. Plaintiff is an individual who resides in the Northern District of Illinois.
- 4. Defendant Certegy Check Services, Inc. is a corporation with offices at 11601

Roosevelt Blvd., St. Petersburg, FL 33716.

5. Defendant Certegy Check Services, Inc. is a consumer reporting agency subject to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, and has been judicially determined to be such. Lofton-

Taylor v. Verizon Wireless, 05-0532-CG-B, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 83684 (S.D.Ala., Nov. 14, 2006), aff'd, 262 Fed. Appx. 999, 2008 U.S. App. LEXIS 1596 (11th Cir., Jan. 23, 2008).

FACTS

- 6. Plaintiff is the victim of deceptive telemarketing practices.
- 7. The telemarketer obtained plaintiff's checking account information and created "electronic checks" which it presented against plaintiff's account to remove funds from the account.
 - 8. Plaintiff instructed her bank not to honor any such "electronic checks."
- 9. The telemarketer transferred one or more "electronic checks" to Certegy Check Services, Inc.
- 10. Certegy Check Services, Inc., had its affiliate, Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Inc., attempt to collect the "electronic checks" plus service charges thereon. Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Inc. is located at the same address as Certegy Check Services, Inc.
- 11. On information and belief, Certegy Check Services, Inc. has access to all information which Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Inc., has concerning a particular individual, and vice versa.
- On or about April 27, 2008, Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Inc. sent 12. plaintiff Exhibit A.
- 13. Exhibit A adds a \$25 "returned check service charge" to the amount of the "electronic check."
- Illinois law, 810 ILCS 5/3-806, authorizes a \$25 fee under limited 14. circumstances:

Sec. 3-806. Any person who issues a check or other draft that is not honored upon presentment because the drawer does not have an account with the drawee, or because the drawer does not have sufficient funds in his account, or because the drawer does not have sufficient credit with the drawee, shall be liable in the amount of \$ 25, or for all costs and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred by any person in connection with the collection of the amount for which the check or other draft was written, whichever is greater, and shall be liable for interest upon the amount of the check or other draft at the rate provided in subsection (1) of Section 4 of the Interest Act [815 ILCS 205/4]. Costs and expenses shall include reasonable costs and expenses incurred in the nonlitigated collection of the check or other draft.

A person who undertakes a nonlitigated collection against the person who issued a check or other draft that is not honored upon presentment shall make a written demand by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivered to the last known address of that person in order to become eligible for any costs and expenses in excess of \$ 25. The written demand shall demand payment within 30 days of the mailing of the demand and shall include notice of liability for the costs and expenses.

A fee or charge not to exceed \$ 4.50 may be assessed to any person or owner of a commercial checking account or other similar commercial account where a check or other draft that is deposited into the account is dishonored upon presentment because of insufficient funds or because the drawer does not have an account with the drawee; provided, however, that, the limitation on the fee or charge specified in this paragraph does not apply to any fee or charge assessed to any bank or other depository institution or to any non-commercial checking account or other similar non-commercial account.

- 15. The \$25 fee (a) does not apply to a "stop payment" situation and (b) does not apply to "electronic checks" created by a telemarketer rather than actually issued by the consumer.
- 16. On May 27, 2008, plaintiff informed Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Inc. that no check had been dishonored as the result of a dispute (Exhibit B).
- 17. On May 29, 2008, plaintiff requested that Certegy Check Services, Inc. provide a copy of the information it was maintaining regarding plaintiff (Exhibit C).
- 18. On July 8, 2008, plaintiff again requested that Certegy Check Services, Inc. provide a copy of the information it was maintaining regarding plaintiff. (Exhibit D)

19. On June 14, 2008, Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Inc., acting on behalf

of Certegy Check Services, Inc., sent plaintiff the letter attached as Exhibit E.

20. On June 28, 2008, Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Inc., acting on behalf

of Certegy Check Services, Inc., sent plaintiff the letter attached as Exhibit F.

- 21. On July 12, 2008, Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Inc., acting on behalf of Certegy Check Services, Inc., sent plaintiff the letter attached as <u>Exhibit G</u>.
- 22. On information and belief, based on the above events, plaintiff believes that Certegy Check Services, Inc. is maintaining information regarding plaintiff that it knows or should know is false.
- 23. On information and belief, based on difficulties that plaintiff has encountered in writing checks, plaintiff believes that Certegy Check Services, Inc. has disseminated to users of its consumer reports information regarding plaintiff that it knows or should know is (a) false and (b) disputed, without noting the existence of any dispute.

COUNT I – FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT

- 24. Plaintiff incorporates ¶¶ 1-23.
- 25. Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. §1681g, Certegy Check Services, Inc. "shall, upon request . . . clearly and accurately disclose to the consumer: (1) All information in the consumer's file at the time of the request"
- 26. Defendant Certegy Check Services, Inc. has negligently or wilfully failed to comply, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1681n and/or §1681o.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff requests that the Court enter judgment in her favor and against Certegy Check Services, Inc. for:

- a. Appropriate actual, punitive and statutory damages;
- b. Attorney's fees, litigation expenses and costs of suit;
- c. Such other or further relief as the Court deems proper.

COUNT II – FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT

- 27. Plaintiff incorporates ¶¶ 1-23.
- 28. Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. §1681e, Certegy Check Services, Inc. is required to "follow reasonable procedures to assure maximum possible accuracy of the information concerning the individual about whom the report relates."
- 29. Defendant Certegy Check Services, Inc. has negligently or wilfully failed to comply, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1681n and/or §1681o.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff requests that the Court enter judgment in her favor and against Certegy Check Services, Inc. for:

- a. Appropriate actual, punitive and statutory damages;
- b. Attorney's fees, litigation expenses and costs of suit;
- c. Such other or further relief as the Court deems proper.

s/ Daniel A. Edelman
Daniel A. Edelman

Daniel A. Edelman Cathleen M. Combs James O. Latturner Tara L. Goodwin Rupali R. Shah
EDELMAN, COMBS, LATTURNER
& GOODWIN, LLC
120 S. LaSalle Street, 18th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603
(312) 739-4200
(312) 419-0379 (FAX)

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands trial by jury.

s/ Daniel A. Edelman
Daniel A. Edelman

NOTICE OF LIEN AND ASSIGNMENT

Please be advised that we claim a lien upon any recovery herein for 1/3 or such amount as a court awards. All rights relating to attorney's fees have been assigned to counsel.

s/ Daniel A. Edelman
Daniel A. Edelman

Daniel A. Edelman
EDELMAN, COMBS, LATTURNER
& GOODWIN, LLC
120 S. LaSalle Street, 18th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603
(312) 739-4200
(312) 419-0379 (FAX)

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08CV4329 JUDGE CASTILLO MAG. JUDGE COLE J. N.

EXHIBIT A

FIRST NOTICE

PO BOX 30031 Tampa, FL 33630-3031 LOCKETT

Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Inc. 11601 Roosevelt Boulevard St. Petersburg, Florida 33716 Office Hours: 8,00 AM to 11:00 PM EST Monday -Thursday 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM EST Friday 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM EST Saturday (866) 838-6092 REDEPOSIT NOTIFICATION

bllallaradbhallarilladalahillanddaldl **EUNICE LOCKETT**

DATE: 04/27/08

MERCHANT: SMC CONT MEMBER (PERSONAL)

CLAIM NUMBER: 25553992 CHECK NUMBER: 000421 CHECK DATE: 04/21/08 CHECK AMOUNT: \$79.90

RETURNED CHECK SERVICE CHARGE: \$25,00

TOTAL DUE: \$104,90

This letter is to notify you that the attempted electronic funds transfer of \$79.90 payable to SMC CONT MEMBER (PERSONAL) was returned unpaid. This transfer was initiated on April 21, 2008 using check #000421 ("Electronic Check"). This Electronic Check has been referred to Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Inc. ("CPRS") for collection. All further communication regarding this Electronic Check should be with CPRS.

Certegy Check Services, Inc. has paid SMC CONT MEMBER (PERSONAL) for your unpaid Electronic Check. Certegy Check Services, Inc. is now the owner of your Electronic Check and is our client. We are representing your Electronic Check to our financial institution. Please check with your financial institution to determine if your Electronic Check has been debited from your account. If your Electronic Check has been debited from your account, or will be debited upon presentment, CPRS will collect the service charge of \$25.00 through an electronic debit for your convenience. If your Electronic Check will not be honored upon presentment, you will need to send us payment for the Total Amount Due below of \$104.90. To insure proper recording of your payment, return the bottom portion of this letter and write the claim number on your payment,

Information regarding your dishonored Electronic Check has been recorded by our client in their national check database, which is used by retail stores and financial institutions across North America. If your Electronic Check remains unpaid your ability to write a check or open a new bank account may be negatively affected. Our client may also request that the unpaid check information appear in your personal credit file.

Federal law gives you thirty (30) days after you receive this letter to dispute the validity of the debt or any part of it. If you don't dispute it within that period, we will assume that it is valid. If you do dispute it by notifying us in writing to that effect, we will, as required by law, obtain and mail to you proof of the debt. And if within the same period, you request in writing the name and address of your original creditor, we will furnish you with that information, too. The law does not require us to wait until the end of the 30-day period before making further efforts to collect this debt. If, however, you request proof of the debt or the name and address of the original creditor within the 30-day period that begins with your receipt of this letter, the law requires us to suspend our efforts to collect the debt until we mail the requested information to you.

We are a collection agency. This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

To receive proper credit on your account return this portion with your payment in the enclosed envelope.

EUNICE LOCKETT

\$ coll | 10 coll Claims Accounting PO Box 30272 Tampa FL 33630-3272

DATE: 04/27/08

MERCHANT: SMC CONT MEMBER (PERSONAL)

CLAIM NUMBER: 25553992 CHECK NUMBER: 000421 CHECK DATE: 04/21/08 CHECK AMOUNT: \$79.90

RETURNED CHECK SERVICE CHARGE: \$25.00

TOTAL DUE: \$104.90

Make Money Order or Cashiers Check Payable to: Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Inc.

A1PE0802

EXHIBIT B

Case 1:08-cv-04329 Document 1-2 Filed 07/30/2008 Page 4 of 18

MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION

START-MAY-27 07:42

END-MAY-27 07:43

FILE NO. =209

STN COMM.

ONE-TOUCH/ STATION NAME/TEL NO. PAGES

DURATION

NO. 001 ABBR NO.

8999#172757Ø4914#

001/001

00:00:21

-ECLG LLC

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EDELMAN, COMBS, LATTURNER & GOODWIN, L.L.C.

120 S. LaSalle Street, 18th floor Chicago, Illinois 60603-3403 (312) 739-4200 (800) 644-4673 (312) 419-0379 (FAX) Email: info@edcombs.com www.edcombs.com

May 27, 2008

Fax to 727-570-4914

Certegy Payment Recovery Services 11601 Roosevelt Blvd. St. Petersburg, FL 33716

Re:

Eunice Lockett 25553992

Ladies/ Gentlemen:

Please be advised that we represent the above individual and that our client disputes the claimed debt(s) described above. No check has been dishonored. Our client revoked SMC's authorization to debit funds for good cause. You are hereby advised that our client refuses to pay.

Thank you.

EDELMAN, COMBS, LATTURNER & GOODWIN, L.L.C.

120 S. LaSalle Street, 18th floor Chicago, Illinois 60603-3403 (312) 739-4200 (800) 644-4673 (312) 419-0379 (FAX)

Email: <u>info@edcombs.com</u> www.edcombs.com

May 27, 2008

Fax to 727-570-4914

Certegy Payment Recovery Services 11601 Roosevelt Blvd. St. Petersburg, FL 33716

Re: Eunice Lockett 25553992

Ladies/ Gentlemen:

Please be advised that we represent the above individual and that our client disputes the claimed debt(s) described above. No check has been dishonored. Our client revoked SMC's authorization to debit funds for good cause. You are hereby advised that our client refuses to pay.

Thank you.

Sincerely

EXHIBIT C

Case 1:08-cv-04329 D Document 1-2 END=MAY 29 10:39 MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION START=MAY-29 10:38 FILE NO. -085 PAGES **DURATION** COMM. ONE-TOUCH/ STATION NAME/TEL NO. STN ABBR NO. 00:00:24 21437#17275704914# 002/002 DK 00

-ECLG LLC

- wokokokok --

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EDELMAN, COMBS, LATTURNER & GOODWIN, L.L.C.

120 S. LaSalle Street, 18th floor Chicago, Illinois 60603-3403 (312) 739-4200 (800) 644-4673 (312) 419-0379 (FAX) Email: info@edcombs.com www.edcombs.com

May 29, 2008

Fax to 727-570-4914 AND MAIL

Certegy Check Services 11601 Roosevelt Blvd. St. Petersburg, FL 33716

Re: Eunice Lockett 25553992

Ladies/ Gentlemen:

Please provide a copy of all credit information you are maintaining on our client. Her authorization is enclosed.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

EDELMAN, COMBS, LATTURNER & GOODWIN, L.L.C.

120 S. LaSalle Street, 18th floor Chicago, Illinois 60603-3403 (312) 739-4200 (800) 644-4673 (312) 419-0379 (FAX) Email: <u>info@edcombs.com</u> www.edcombs.com

May 29, 2008

Fax to 727-570-4914 AND MAIL

Certegy Check Services 11601 Roosevelt Blvd. St. Petersburg, FL 33716

Re: Eunice Lockett 25553992

Ladies/ Gentlemen:

Please provide a copy of all credit information you are maintaining on our client. Her authorization is enclosed.

Thank you.

Sincerely

EDELMAN, COMBS, LATTURNER & GOODWIN, LLC

120 S. LaSalle Street, 18th floor Chicago, Illinois 60603-3403 (312) 739-4200 (800) 644-4673 (312) 419-0379 (FAX)

Email: edcombs@aol.com www.edcombs.com

AUTHORIZATION

Eunice Lockett hereby authorizes Edelman, Combs, Latturner & Goodwin, LLC to obtain credit reports and information for the purpose of attempting to correct or remove erroneous information from them.

REDACTED

Social Security Number

EXHIBIT D

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MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION

START=JUL-08 09:03

END-JUL-08 09:04

FILE NO.=118

STN COMM.

ONE-TOUCH/

ABBR NO.

STATION NAME/TEL NO.

PAGES

DURATION

NO.

8

21437#17275704914#

001/001

00:00:16

-ECLG LLC

3124190379- ********

EDELMAN, COMBS, LATTURNER & GOODWIN, L.L.C.

120 S. LaSalle Street, 18th floor Chicago, Illinois 60603-3403 (312) 739-4200 (800) 644-4673 (312) 419-0379 (FAX) Email: info@edcombs.com www.edcombs.com

July 8, 2008

Fax to 727-570-4914 AND MAIL

Certegy Check Services 11601 Roosevelt Blvd. St. Petersburg, FL 33716

Re:

Eunice Lockett 25553992

Ladies/ Gentlemen:

We have not had any response to our May 29, 2008 request for a copy of all credit information you are maintaining on our client. Are you refusing to comply with this request?

Sincerely,

EDELMAN, COMBS, LATTURNER & GOODWIN, L.L.C.

120 S. LaSalle Street, 18th floor Chicago, Illinois 60603-3403 (312) 739-4200 (800) 644-4673 (312) 419-0379 (FAX) Email: info@edcombs.com www.edcombs.com

July 8, 2008

Fax to 727-570-4914 AND MAIL

Certegy Check Services 11601 Roosevelt Blvd. St. Petersburg, FL 33716

Re:

Eunice Lockett 25553992

Ladies/ Gentlemen:

We have not had any response to our May 29, 2008 request for a copy of all credit information you are maintaining on our client. Are you refusing to comply with this request?

Sincerely,

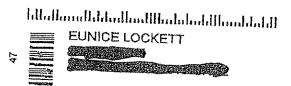
EXHIBIT E

PO BOX 30031 Tampa, FL 33630-3031

LOCKETT

Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Inc. 11601 Roosevelt Boulevard St. Petersburg, Florida 33716 Office Hours: 8:00 AM to 11 .00 PM EST Monday -Thursday 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM EST Enday 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM EST Saturday (866) 838-6092

SECOND NOTICE



DATE: 06/14/08

MERCHANT: SMC CONT MEMBER (PERSONAL)

CLAIM NUMBER: 25553992 CHECK NUMBER: 000421 CHECK DATE: 04/21/08 CHECK AMOUNT: \$79.90

RETURNED CHECK SERVICE CHARGE: \$25.00

TOTAL DUE: \$104.90

Your Electronic Check #000421 payable to SMC CONT MEMBER (PERSONAL) on April 21, 2008 for \$79.90 remains unpaid despite our previous attempt to resolve this with your Your unpaid Electronic Check has been referred to Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Inc. ("CPRS") for collection. All further communication regarding your Electronic Check should be with CPRS. Failure to pay will result in further collection efforts.

Certegy Check Services, Inc. has paid SMC CONT MEMBER (PERSONAL) for your unpaid Electronic Check. Certegy Check Services, Inc. is the owner of your Electronic Check and is our client. You will need to send us payment for the Total Amount Due below of \$104.90.

Information regarding your dishonored Electronic Check has been recorded by our client in their national check database, which is used by retail stores and financial institutions across North America. If your Electronic Check remains unpaid, your ability to write a check or open a new bank account may be negatively affected. Our client may also request that the unpaid Electronic Check information appear in your personal credit file.

We are a collection agency. This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

To receive proper credit on your account return this portion with your payment in the enclosed envelope.

EUNICE LOCKETT

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DATE: 06/14/08

MERCHANT: SMC CONT MEMBER (PERSONAL)

CLAIM NUMBER: 25553992 CHECK NUMBER: 000421 CHECK DATE: 04/21/08 CHECK AMOUNT: \$79.90

RETURNED CHECK SERVICE CHARGE: \$25.00

TOTAL DUE: \$104.90

Make Money Order or Cashiers Check Payable to: Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Inc. or Call: (866) \$38-6092 To Pay By Phone

CPE0802

EXHIBIT F

PO BOX 30031 Tampa, FL 33630-3031

LOCKETT

Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Inc. 11601 Roosevelt Boulevard St. Petersburg, Florida 33716 Office Hours: 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM EST Monday -Thursday 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM EST Friday 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM EST Saturday (866) 838-6092

THIRD NOTICE

EUNICE LOCKETT

EUNICE LOCKETT

DATE: 06/28/08

MERCHANT: SMC CONT MEMBER (PERSONAL)

CLAIM NUMBER: 25553992 CHECK NUMBER: 000421 CHECK DATE: 04/21/08 CHECK AMOUNT: \$79.90

RETURNED CHECK SERVICE CHARGE: \$25,00

TOTAL DUE: \$104.90

_You have not responded to any of the previous requests for payment of your Electronic Check #000421 payable to SMC CONT MEMBER (PERSONAL) for \$79.90. Your unpaid Electronic Check has been referred to Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Inc. ("CPRS") for collection_All further communication_______ regarding your Electronic Check should be with CPRS.

Certegy Check Services, Inc. is the owner of your Electronic Check and is our client. We are proceeding with more extensive collection efforts because of your repeated failure to resolve this matter.

Your ability to pay by check or open an account has already been suspended at thousands of stores, banks and businesses nationwide. Our client may also report your unpaid Electronic Check to national credit bureaus Equifax and Innovis, which would list the check as a negative item in your personal credit. To avoid this, you will need to send us payment for the Total Amount Due of \$104.90.

. This communication is from a debt collector. This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

To receive proper credit on your account return this portion with your payment in the enclosed envelope.

EUNICE LOCKETT

DATE: 06/28/08

MERCHANT: SMC CONT MEMBER (PERSONAL)

CLAIM NUMBER: 25553992 CHECK NUMBER: 000421 CHECK DATE: 04/21/08 CHECK AMOUNT: \$79.90

RETURNED CHECK SERVICE CHARGE: \$25,00

TOTAL DUE: \$104.90

Please remit all payments to: Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Inc. or Call: (866) 838-6092 To Pay By Phone

DPE0802

EXHIBIT G

Case 1:08-cv-04329

Document 1-2

Filed 07/30/2008

Page 18 of 18

Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Inc. 11601 Roosevelt Boulevard St. Petersburg, Florida 33716 Office Hours, 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM EST Monday -Thursday

8:00 AM to 10:00 PM EST Friday 8.00 AM to 6.00 PM EST Saturday (866) 838-6092

FOURTH NOTICE

PO BOX 30031 Tampa, FL 33630-3031 LOCKETT

Mallacalldadalladlladaladllaaddd **EUNICE LOCKETT**

DATE: 07/12/08

MERCHANT: SMC CONT MEMBER (PERSONAL)

CLAIM NUMBER: 25553992 CHECK NUMBER: 000421 CHECK DATE: 04/21/08 CHECK AMOUNT: \$79.90

RETURNED CHECK SERVICE CHARGE: \$25.00

TOTAL DUE; \$104.90

Your unpaid Electronic Check #000421 payable to SMC CONT MEMBER (PERSONAL) for \$79.90 has been referred to Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Ino-("CPRS") for collection. All further communication regarding this Electronic Check should be with CPRS.

Certegy Check Services, Inc. is the owner of your Electronic Check and is our client.

Despite numerous collection attempts via phone calls and letters, we still have not received payment for this returned Electronic Check, Because of this, our client may furnish information regarding this returned Electronic Check to national credit reporting agencies Equifax and Innovis, which would list it as a

You are advised that this information may remain in your personal credit file for 7 years. We expect to hear from you within 48 hours to bring this matter to a

This communication is from a debt collector. This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

and the second s To receive proper credit on your account return this portion with your payment in the enclosed envelope.



Claims Accounting PO Box 30272 Tampa FL 33630-3272

DATE: 07/12/08

MERCHANT: SMC CONT MEMBER (PERSONAL)

CLAIM NUMBER: 25553992 CHECK NUMBER: 000421 CHECK DATE: 04/21/08 CHECK AMOUNT: \$79.90

RETURNED CHECK SERVICE CHARGE: \$25.00

TOTAL DUE: \$104.90

Please remit all payments to: Certegy Payment Recovery Services, Inc. or Call: (866) 838-6092 To Pay By Phone

EPE0802